

MAD RIVER UNION

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SCENE OF THE CRIME A tribute to McKinleyville resident Tyson Eduardo Claros stands alongside State Route 255 in Manila, where he was gunned down.

JACK DURHAM | UNION

❖ ARCATA

Marsh bedeviled by drones

Kevin L. Hoover
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – Ah, the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary, where a keen observer out for an afternoon of communion with nature might behold the aerial majesty of the Marbled Godwit, the Great Gray Owl, the Double-Crested Cormorant or the Hamphong 424 Avenger FPV

HD Quadcopter.

That last beast, or one like it, buzzed about the marsh on Christmas, remotely guided by the O'Blivious family, or one like it, from atop Mt. Trashmore. Earlier that day, another drone had been directed out over the Little Lakes property and the marsh's Log Pond from a business' rooftop on lower H Street.

While radio-controlled aircraft aren't exactly what the marsh's founders had in mind, it turns out that there's no specific prohibition against their use. While "use regulations" posted there state that "No aerial obstructions such as kites, hang gliders, and model airplanes are allowed," a drone isn't technically an air-

DRONES ❖ A3

Victim was 'set up' in homicide

Paul Mann

MAD RIVER UNION

EUREKA/MANILA – One of the five accused murderers in the December slaying of Tyson Eduardo Claros, 20, of McKinleyville admitted to setting up the victim for an "ass whipping," according to arrest records.

The admission came from Tamara Nicole Thomson, 18, charged with carjacking and personal use of a firearm as well as murder.

The genesis of the set-up and what followed it are documented in three accounts gathered by Humboldt County Sheriff's deputies. They took statements from two suspects, Thomson, and her boyfriend Cesar Valenzuela-Campos, 23; and from an eyewitness to the gunplay, identified as Brittany Boyd. The killing occurred in the early morning hours of Dec. 12 on State Route 255 in Manila.

It was Thomson who admitted after being taken into custody on Park Street in Eureka that Claros was ambushed by five young people

MURDER ❖ A3

WELCOME 2017 If thermometer readings in the 30s weren't enough, you know it's a chill New Year's Eve when a major feature is a bake sale outside Sidelines. In contrast with the near-riotous days of yesteryear, no one climbed the McKinley statue, even without police barricades. Above left, at The Jam, the champagne was arrayed on the bar as outside, right, street musicians somehow made guitar chords with refrigerated fingers. Below left, Barbara Shults sold tasty baked goods to benefit the Lost Coast Humane Society. Middle, the midnight hour brought smoochin' aplenty. Below right, participants in the World's Biggest Marble Hunt, a Facebook-based event, probed the Plaza's bushes and flowerbeds, eventually locating the prized orb, So here's to 2017, and Happy New Year!

PHOTOS BY KLH | UNION



❖ THE BIG FREEZE

Shelter opens as mercury plummets

Kevin L. Hoover
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – With temperatures forecast as plummeting into the 20s on multiple nights this week, and snow even predicted, Arcata House has gone into overdrive to shelter those with nowhere warm and dry to stay at night.

Starting last Monday night, Arcata House's Extreme Weather Shelter opened for five nights, and may be open even longer if the dangerous weather persists. "We'll be fluid on that," said Outreach Coordinator Dahl Simms, who oversees the Extreme Weather Shelter.

The shelter uses rooms in local churches to house up to 16 houseless individuals on especially cold or wet nights. Anticipating high demand during this week's big freeze, Arcata House planned to open up its shuttered Night

Shelter on Boyd Road to double its capacity.

Shelter applicants are screened to ensure the safety of participants. Intakes begin at 3 p.m. at the Annex, 501 E St. (at the foot of Ninth Street, two blocks from the Arcata Plaza). Those accepted are fed a hot meal, offered showers, given fresh clothing and loaned bedding for the night.

The exceptional effort will take a huge bite out of Arcata House's limited budget for the special shelters, consuming literally half of it. At \$450 per night, Arcata House can afford to put on only 10 of the shelters per winter.

Further, adding a second facility for five straight nights will push up labor expenses, as chaperones are paid a modest stipend to oversee participants. But Arcata House will do what needs to be done, budget consequences notwithstanding.

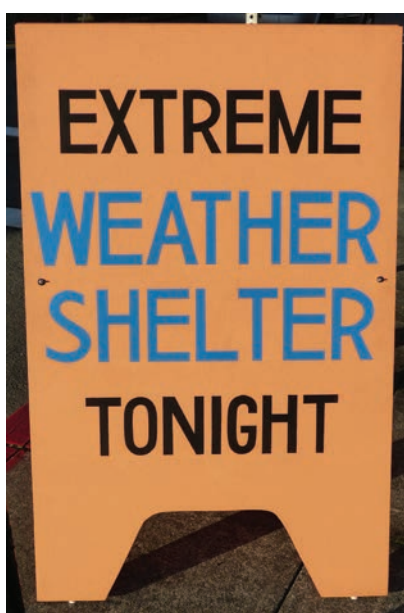
SHELTER ❖ A3

Cole deemed unfit for trial

Kevin L. Hoover
MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – The odds of Charles Wesley Cole getting the dog known as Mr. Know Buddy (its original name), Mr. Nobody (what some called it based on a misspelling of the homonym) and Jackpot (what it was renamed by the people with whom it has been rehomed) have further dimmed, as his sanity is now formally in question.

At a competency hearing last week, a court-ordered psychological evaluation came back with a determination that Cole is incompetent to stand trial for animal cruelty and vandalism.

COLE ❖ A3

ESCAPE THE CHILL With horrible weather predicted, shelter is being provided to area houseless people.

KLH | UNION

hwma

Free Xmas Tree Drop-Off

Please remove all tinsel, decorations and ornaments

Free Christmas tree drop-off will be available at HWMA's Transfer Station. 1059 W. Hawthorne St. Eureka, Ca December 26th-January 16th.

Commercial trees do not apply

For more info call (707) 268-8680

Humboldt Waste Management Authority
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